

Vulnerable and Low-Income Communities
Descriptions in the Clean Power Plan Final Rule

Groups that EPA identifies as vulnerable, at any point throughout the rule:

- Low-income
- Communities of color (populations defined jointly by ethnic/racial characteristics and geographic location)
- Children
- Elderly
- Poor
- Small, remote, predominantly-indigenous communities
- Those already in poor health and the disabled
- Those living alone
- Communities experiencing adverse, disproportionate impacts of climate change and air pollution
- Rural populations
- Communities near affected units

p. 45 (64670 in FR): “We expect an important co-benefit of this rule to be a reduction in the adverse health impacts of air pollution on these low-income communities and communities of color. We refer to these communities generally as “vulnerable” or “overburdened,” to denote those communities least resilient to the impacts of climate change and central to environmental justice considerations.”

Sec. I (A)(3)(f)(5)

p. 46 (64670 in FR): “EPA encourages states to identify communities that may be currently experiencing adverse, disproportionate impacts of climate change and air pollution..”

Sec. I (A)(3)(f)(5)

p.82 (64677 in FR): “Certain groups, including children, the elderly, and the poor, are most vulnerable to climate-related effects. Recent studies also find that certain communities, including low-income communities and some communities of color (more specifically, populations defined jointly by ethnic/racial characteristics and geographic location), are disproportionately affected by certain climate change related impacts...”

Sec. I (A)(5)(b)

p. 107 (64685 in FR): “Small, remote, predominantly-indigenous communities are especially vulnerable...”

Sec. II (A)(3)

p. 967 (64844 in FR): “The agency uses the terms “vulnerable” and “overburdened” in referring to low-income communities, communities of color, and indigenous populations that are most affected by, and least resilient to, the impacts of climate change, and are central to our community and environmental justice considerations.”

Sec. VIII (D)(2)(a)(6)

p. 1313 (64914 in FR): “While addressing climate change will provide broad benefits, it is particularly beneficial to low-income populations and some communities of color (in particular, populations defined jointly by ethnic/racial characteristics and geographic location) where people are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change...”

Sec. IX

p. 1320 (64915 in FR): “There are many rural power plants that are located near small communities with high percentages of low-income populations and lower percentages of communities of color. In urban areas, nearby communities tend to be both low-income communities and communities of color... in order to adequately capture both the low-income and minority aspects central to environmental justice considerations, we use the terms “vulnerable” or “overburdened” when referring to these communities. Our intent is for these terms to be understood in an expansive sense, in order to capture the full scope of communities, including indigenous communities most often located in rural areas, that are central to our environmental justice and community considerations.”

Sec. IX

p. 1435 (64940 in FR): “The assessment literature cited in the EPA’s 2009 Endangerment Finding concluded that certain populations and lifestages, including children, the elderly, and the poor, are most vulnerable to climate-related health effects.”

Sec. XII (I)

p. 1438 (64940 in FR): “Populations that were found to be particularly vulnerable to climate change risks include the poor, the elderly, the very young, those already in poor health, the disabled, those living alone, and/or indigenous populations dependent on one or a few resources.”

Sec. XII (J)